

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying a shelf within a cabinet, said shelf carrying at least one item to be located by a user, said method comprising displaying on the step ~~of causing a numeric, shelf-level display to flash a number that is the number of different items~~ to be located which are carried by the shelf.

2. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
entering user information into a processor controlling a dispensing cabinet;
~~said processor unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user~~
information;

choosing a query mode;

identifying an item for which information is sought;

displaying substantive information for the identified item; and

logging off; ~~and~~

~~locking the unlocked doors.~~

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 additionally comprising ~~the step of~~ entering patient information.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 additionally comprising:
unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user
information,

~~the steps of opening one of the unlocked doors,~~

selecting a compartment,

entering the number of items taken,

~~and closing the opened door; and~~

locking the unlocked doors.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said ~~step of~~ choosing a query mode includes choosing from among a dispense, locate, return, query ~~and~~or restock mode.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said ~~step of~~ identifying an item for which information is sought includes one of picking an item from a pick list, inputting identifying information with a keypad, ~~and~~or barcode scanning.

7. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
entering user information into a processor controlling a dispensing cabinet;
said processor unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

entering patient information into the processor;
choosing a query mode;
identifying an item for which information is sought;
displaying substantive information for the identified item;
opening an unlocked door;
selecting a compartment;
identifying the number of items taken from the selected compartment;
displaying the number of items taken on a display;
closing the opened door;
logging off; and
locking the unlocked doors.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said ~~step of~~ choosing a query mode includes choosing from among a dispense, locate, return, query ~~and~~or restock mode.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said ~~step of~~ identifying an item includes one of picking an item from a pick list, inputting identifying information with a keypad, ~~and~~or barcode scanning.

10. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the display of a number includes a flashing display.

11. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein the number stops flashing and is reset to zero in response to an item switch being activated.